

REMARKS

Claims 16-36 are pending. The Final Action dated June 11, 2007 in this Application has been carefully considered. The above amendments and the following remarks are presented in a sincere attempt to place this Application in condition for allowance. Claims 16, 25 and 33 have been amended in this Response. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and following remarks.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesy of the interview conducted on August 14, 2007. During the interview, the above-referenced amendments were discussed. Tentative agreement was not reached that such amendments patentably distinguish from the art currently of record. However, the Examiner indicated that an additional search would be required. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to discuss any issues raised or remaining.

Claims 16-23, 25-31 and 33-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0135779 to Takashima et al. (“Takashima”). Claims 24 and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) by as being unpatentable over Takashima. In light of the amendments submitted herewith, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections have been overcome. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn.

Rejected independent Claim 16, as now amended, more particularly recites one of the distinguishing characteristics of the present invention, namely, “providing a power voltage to the subunit based on the determined idle status and a power management signal.” (Emphasis added.) Support for this Amendment can be found, among other places, in paragraphs [0017]-[0020] of the original Application, as identified in the published Application.

Takashima was cited as assertedly fully disclosing all the limitations of Claim 16. However, Takashima does not suggest, teach, or disclose providing a power voltage to the subunit based on an

idle status and a power management signal. Instead, Takashima teaches that voltage is controlled by a single signal from an instruction decode unit 120. See Takashima, Figure 1. Specifically, Takashima states “The instruction decode unit 120 also instructs the voltage controlling unit 150, the frequency controlling unit 160 and the bus width controlling unit 170 to change their controlling actions when a specific instruction has been decoded. Takashima, paragraph [0060], lines 6-10. Therefore, Takashima does not suggest, teach, or disclose providing a power voltage to a subunit based on a determined idle status and a power management signal.

In view of the foregoing, it is apparent that the cited reference does not teach the unique combination now recited in amended Claim 16. Applicants therefore submit that amended Claim 16 is clearly and precisely distinguishable over the cited reference in a patentable sense, and is therefore allowable over this reference and the remaining references of record. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of amended Claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be withdrawn and that Claim 16 be allowed.

Rejected independent Claim 25, as now amended, more particularly recites one of the distinguishing characteristics of the present invention, namely, “a local clock buffer coupled to the control register and configured to provide a clock signal to a subunit based on a power management signal and a predetermined bit position associated with the subunit” (Emphasis added.) As shown above, Takashima teaches that a clock signal (frequency controlling unit 160) is controlled by a single signal from an instruction decode unit 120. Therefore, Takashima does not suggest, teach, or disclose a local clock buffer coupled to the control register and configured to provide a clock signal to a subunit based on a power management signal and a predetermined bit position associated with the subunit. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of amended Claim 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be withdrawn and that Claim 25 be allowed.

Rejected independent Claim 33, as now amended, more particularly recites one of the distinguishing characteristics of the present invention, namely, “computer program code for providing a clock signal to the subunit based on the determined idle status and a power management signal” (Emphasis added.) As shown above, Takashima teaches that a clock signal (frequency controlling unit 160) is controlled by a single signal from an instruction decode unit 120. Therefore, Takashima does not suggest, teach, or disclose computer program code for providing a clock signal to a subunit based on a determined idle status and a power management signal. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of amended Claim 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be withdrawn and that Claim 33 be allowed.

Claims 17-24, 26-32 and 34-36 depend from and further limit a respective one of Claims 16, 25 and 33. Hence, for at least the aforementioned reasons, these Claims should also be deemed to be in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejections of the dependent Claims 17-24, 26-32 and 34-36 also be withdrawn.

Applicants have now made an earnest attempt to place this Application in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of Claims 16-36.

Applicants do not believe that any fees are due; however, in the event that any fees are due, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any required fees due (other than issue fees), and to credit any overpayment made, in connection with the filing of this paper to Deposit Account No. 09-0447 of IBM Corporation.

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Should the Examiner deem that any further amendment is desirable to place this Application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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